MANSONS LANDING PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

February 2003

Approved by:

D Heath

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb. 3/03

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: Feb 24/03

MANSONS LANDING PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role

The **primary** role of Mansons Landing Park is to protect the natural values associated with the northern Gulf Islands. The park protects the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection (SOG), which has been highly modified through development and settlement and is under-represented in the protected areas system at 5.35%. Mansons Landing is one of 22 small parks that assist in providing representation of SOG. It makes a minimal contribution (0.7%) to the protection of the Strait of Georgia *Marine* Ecosection (SOG), which is under-represented in the protected areas system at 0.94%.

Given the size of this park, it makes a small contribution to the protection of the Coastal Western Hemlock xm1 biogeoclimatic variant, which has only 2.07% protected provincially. This variant is primarily located on the east side of Vancouver Island and the northern Gulf Islands and has been highly modified and fragmented, making any protected area representation significant.

The natural special features of the park including the sandy spit and Mansons Lagoon serve as important habitat for marine and coastal birds such as bald eagles, great blue herons and various shorebirds as well as for marine mammals such as harbour porpoises and Dall's porpoises. Concentrations of heron nests have been observed in the park.

Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to provide a variety of day use recreational opportunities. As a marine park, it contributes to the marine protected areas system in the northern Gulf Islands archipelago and in the Desolation Sound destination area. Located on the southwest shores of Cortes Island and fronting both Hague Lake and Manson Bay, the park offers day use activities such as both fresh and salt water swimming, nearby kayaking, picnicking, walking, marine life viewing, photography, and nature appreciation. Camping is possible at nearby Smelt Bay Provincial Park. Access to Mansons Landing Park is by ferry and road or by private boat. Small boats at high tide can enter the lagoon while a federal government wharf allows access to the park by larger boats. There is also a good anchorage for boaters at the park boundary in Manson Bay.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Boat sewage in lagoon	➢ Work with Canadian Coast Guard to enforce no dumping regulation.
Water contamination of community water source (Hague Lake)	➢ Provide information to indicate appropriate behaviour to swimmers. ➢ Ensure adequate facilities are provided and maintained to control human waste.
Impact of swimmer's itch on the quality of the recreational experience at Hague Lake	➢ Prepare information on swimmers itch.
Commercial extraction of resources (i.e.	➢ Work with DFO to enforce shellfish closures.

commercial shellfish harvest) from marine area	
Erosion of spit	➢ Initiate a formal assessment and develop a long term monitoring program to protect against excessive human impact (such as vehicle traffic). ➢ Develop interpretative signs to increase knowledge of this special feature.
Local domination of wharf space to exclusion of boaters visiting park	➢ Investigate benefits of acquiring wharf. If supported, work with Small Craft Harbours to transfer management and administration of wharf.
Non-conforming uses e.g. unpermitted wharves, off loading of clams/oysters	➢ Work with landowners and commercial harvesters to desist and relocate activities. ➢ Develop educational materials on appropriate uses and implications under *Park Act* for distribution to local community. Consider a public workshop to address issues.
Lack of detailed knowledge of natural terrestrial and marine values and cultural values	➢ Undertake inventory on natural and cultural values. Include First Nations in development of cultural inventory.
Recreation impact on archaeological values	➢ In conjunction with First Nations, develop interpretative information on park values and appropriate behaviours.
Lack of formalized parking facilities at Hague Lake	➢ Investigate options to develop parking lot to serve Hague Lake visitors.

Zoning

Intensive Recreation Zone – covers the heavily used day use areas such as the beach access on Hague Lake, the roadways and parking area (approximately 7% of the park). The objective of this zone is to provide for a variety of readily accessible, facility-oriented outdoor recreation opportunities.

Natural Environment Zone - covers the bulk of the park (approximately 60%) in recognition of the natural values that provide the background to the recreational use as well as protecting the conservation values. The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Special Feature Zone – covers the lagoon and sand spit to preserve their character and the natural processes that formed them (approximately 33% of the park). The objective of this zone is to protect and present significant natural or cultural features, resources, or processes because of their special character, fragility and heritage values.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution to the under-represented Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection (only 5.35% protected); Mansons Landing contributes only 1.35% to the overall representation of this ecosection. Quality of representation is poor due to the small size of the park. Strait of Georgia *Marine* – 53 hectares of foreshore contribute minimally (0.7%) to the representation of this poorly-represented marine ecosection (only 0.94% protected in total).
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Contributes minimally to the representation of CWHxm1 which is under-represented in the PA system (only 2.07% protected). Mansons Landing contributes 0.57% to the overall representation of CWHxm1 but is important given the fragmented nature of this ecosystem and the limited opportunities available for protection.
Special Feature	☒	Entire salt lagoon, sand spit, fresh water white sand beach
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Blue-listed great blue heron
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☐	None known at this time

Recreation

Representation backcountry	☐	Not Applicable
destination	☒	Manson Bay at park boundary is an excellent anchorage for boaters exploring the northern Gulf Island; wharf adds to its destination for boaters
travel corridor	☒	Part of northern Gulf Islands marine corridor for boaters and kayakers
local recreation	☒	Fresh water swimming, beach combing, picnicking, fishing, boating, and nature appreciation
Special Opportunities	☐	None known at this time
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☒	Local school developed an interpretive trail that explains the natural and cultural values of the park

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Early pioneer – Michael Manson trading post

Special Feature	☒	Archaeological sites; two midden sites

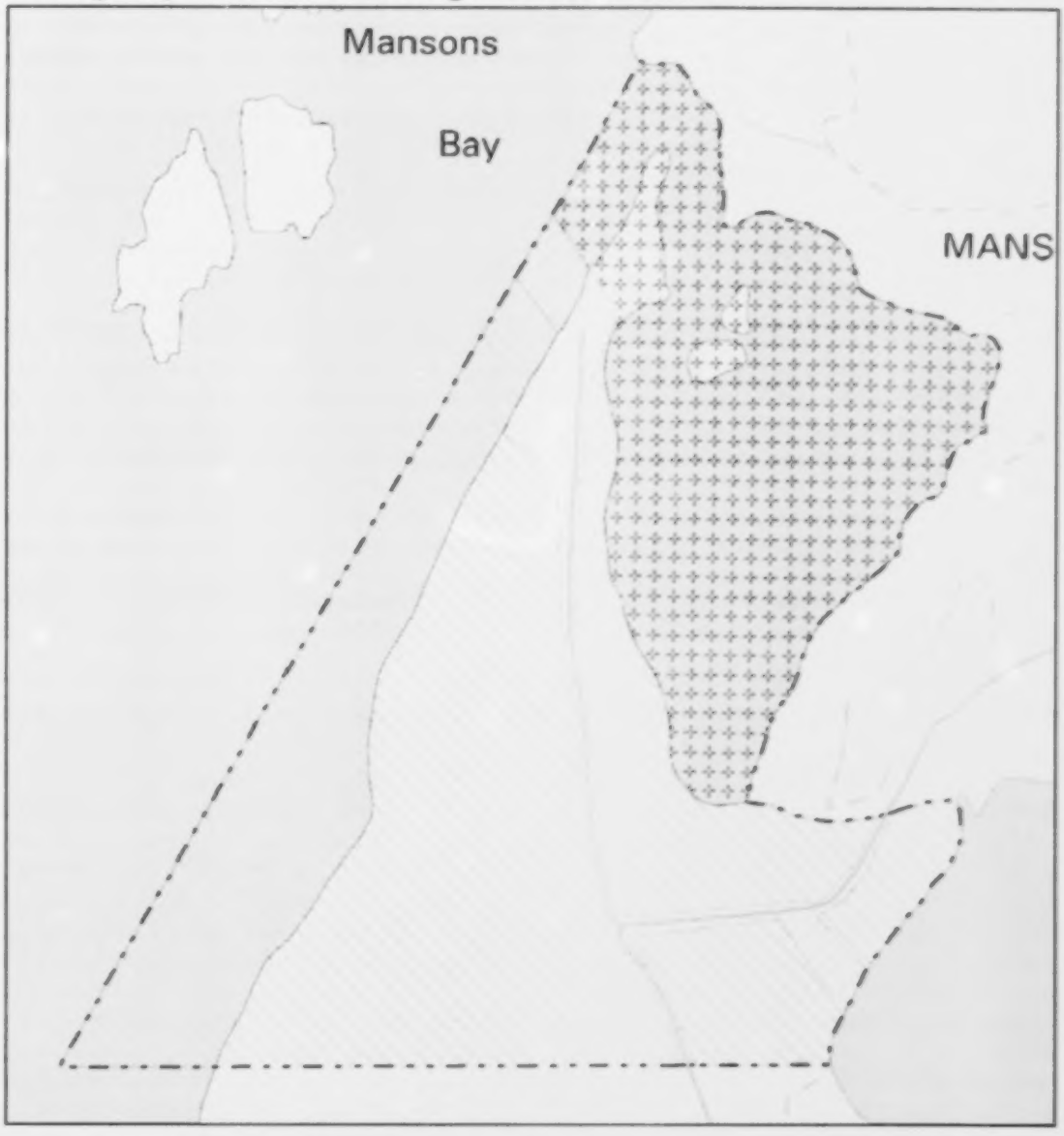
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☐	Not Applicable
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of marine system of protected areas in the northern Gulf Islands; complements camping experience at nearby Smelt Bay (22 sites)
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Commercial fishery closure on Pacific oyster and intertidal clams specific to the park. Designated as a no dump zone under the Pleasure Craft Sewage Pollution Prevention Regulation.
Partnerships	☐	Potential community partnership
Vulnerability	☒	Fecal coliform contamination of lagoon, Hague Lake and area around dock affecting water quality and bivalve mollusc health. Erosion of spit and sensitive ecosystem. Small size limits ability to protect ecosection and biogeoclimatic variant.
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Marine Protected Areas Strategy

Area: 100.3 hectares (47 ha upland; 53 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: March 21, 1974

Zoning Map - Mansons Landing Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Intensive Recreation
Natural Environment
Special Feature
Protected Area Boundary

0 100
m

Produced in Jan 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

This is a visual representation only and should not be used for legal purposes.